

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/625,531

Examiner

Edan Orgad

Applicant(s)

POSA ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to phone interview dated 7/3/07 and IDS filed 7/5/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 8 and 11-21.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 7/5/07
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 7/3/07.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John Posa on 7/3/07.

The application has been amended as follows:

Abstract has been changed to:

Electronic teleconferencing configurations use one or more remote microphones for added functionality. A base unit includes an interface to a telecommunications network and at least one remote microphone in wireless communication with the base unit, enabling a carder of the microphone to speak to a listener through the base unit over the telecommunications network. The base unit may form part of a telephone, and would preferably further include a docking station to receive the remote microphone along with electrical contacts causing the telephone to enter into a speakerphone mode when the remote microphone is removed for use. A speaker may either be provided in the base unit, or may be disposed in the housing of the remote microphone, for example, in the form of a headset. With multiple wireless microphones audio processing circuitry may be added for level control or microphone/speaker discrimination. ~~The inventive apparatus may also form part of a video teleconferencing system, in which case one or more cameras would be employed to capture user images for transmission through the~~

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~~telecommunications network. As a further option, the system may transmit a wireless signal for transponding by the remote units, enabling the determination of distance to the base unit. Particularly with the use of separate frequencies, the location of each remote microphone may also be determined using multiple antennas and triangulation. By knowing distance and/or position, additional capabilities are possible by virtue of the invention, including automatic pan/tilt, zoom, focusing, and depth of field for single or multiple speakers.~~

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 7/5/07 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see Appeal Brief, filed 1/22/07, with respect to Final Rejection mailed 8/21/07 have been fully considered and are persuasive.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8 and 11-21 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 8, examiner agrees with applicant arguments filed in Appeal Brief dated 1/22/07, see pages 2-5. Specifically, the closest prior art utilized by examiner fails to specifically

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disclose a wireless locator signal transmitter at the base unit, the remote microphone re-transmits the wireless signal to the base unit, enabling the base unit to determine a positional aspect of the user of the microphone and a pan or tilt capability associated with the video camera which is controlled as a function of the positional aspect, enabling the video camera to visually track a moving user. In other words, although the prior art, Gidwani (US Patent # 6,640,239) relied on by examiner, teaches a telecommunications apparatus (figure 13), comprising: a base unit (element 776), including an interface (element 142, IP router) to a telecommunications network (UIP client 786 is connected to internet 158); at least one wireless remote microphone (element 764, wireless microphone) in wireless communication with the base unit (col. 40, lines 41-47), enabling a user of the microphone to speak to a listener through the base unit and telecommunications network (col. 39, line 65-col. 40, line 6); and wherein the base unit forms part of a video teleconferencing system including a video camera (element 762 is a camera input, inherently for a camera, specifically since a camera is required for video conferencing, col. 39, line 65- col. 40, line 6) for capturing images of the user for transmission to the listener through the telecommunications network (col. 39, line 65-col. 40, line 6 & col. 40, lines 35-64). Gidwani does not disclose a wireless locator signal transmitter at the base unit, the remote microphone re-transmits the wireless signal to the base unit, enabling the base unit to determine a positional aspect of the user of the microphone and a pan or tilt capability associated with the video camera which is controlled as a function of the positional aspect, enabling the video camera to visually track a moving user.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edan Orgad whose telephone number is 571-272-7884. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00AM to 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Urban can be reached on 571-272-7899. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

EDAN ORGAD
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER

Edan Orgad 7/7/09